

Message Text

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EPA/EXECSEC(ACTING): DHSTROTHER
EPA/A-106: KHARPER
EUR/SOV: WVEALE
OES/ENP/EN:PGLASOE
OES/ENP/EN:PGLASOE
-----230541Z 049235 /21
R 222312Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 063729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON REGULATION OF CHLORO-
FLUOROCARBON EMISSIONS, APRIL 26-28

REFERENCE: STATE 000374, STATE 011847, STATE 111849

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING DATED MARCH 18 TO
DR. YURIY S. SEDUNOV AT HYDROMET WITH COPY TO KAZAKOV.
(SEE FIRST, HOWEVER, LAST PARA THIS CABLE.)
2. "DEAR DR. SEDUNOV: I HOPE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
WILL GIVE YOU A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE HOPE TO
ACCOMPLISH WITH THE APRIL FLUOROCARBON MEETING. AS I SAID
DURING OUR LUNCHEON ON MARCH 7, WE THINK FLUOROCARBONS POSE
A SERIOUS--IF AS YET UNQUANTIFIED--THREAT TO THE OZONE LAYER
AND HENCE TO HUMAN HEALTH. WE THINK IT THEREFORE IMPORTANT
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FOR THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, THE MAJOR PRODUCERS AND
USERS OF FLUOROCARBONS, TO BEGIN A DISCUSSION THAT WILL HELP
US ALL UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM BETTER AND CONSIDER TOGETHER
WAYS IN WHICH REGULATIONS CAN BE APPLIED IN EACH OF OUR
COUNTRIES TO CONTROL THIS THREAT.

3. THE RECENT UNEP MEETING DEMONSTRATED CLEARLY THE WIDE

DIFFERENCES IN THE PERCEPTION OF THE PROBLEM AMONG THE MAJOR CHLOROFLUOROCARBON (CFC) PRODUCING AND USING NATIONS. WE IN THE UNITED STATES BELIEVE IT WILL SERVE A MOST USEFUL PURPOSE IF REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE COUNTRIES CAN DISCUSS THESE MATTERS INFORMALLY, PROBING THE DIFFERENCES THAT SEEM TO EXIST, WITH A VIEW TO EXPANDING EACH NATION'S INFORMATION BASE. SUCH A DISCUSSION SHOULD HELP US NARROW THE ISSUES AND RESOLVE SOME OF THE UNCERTAINTIES.

4. THE APRIL MEETING IS NOT DESIGNED TO REACH CONCLUSIONS OR FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS. SUBSEQUENT INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES WILL OBVIOUSLY BE NEEDED, EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, WITH PARTICIPATION VERY LIKELY TO BE EXPANDED AS OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION IS BROADENED.

5. SECONDLY, WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT A MECHANISM BE CREATED TO ENSURE THAT BROADER INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE CFC PROBLEM BE FIRST FULLY COORDINATED BETWEEN THE MAJOR PRODUCERS AND USERS. WE ARE THINKING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC GROUP WHICH MAY WISH TO MEET FROM TIME TO TIME TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.

6. A THIRD GOAL OF THE MEETING IS TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMATION NETWORK TO KEEP EACH OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS FULLY INFORMED OF ALL NEW SCIENTIFIC AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS WORLDWIDE. THE TYPES OF DATA WHICH COULD BE SUPPLIED WOULD BE NONPROPRIETARY INFORMATION ON SUBSTITUTE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPELLANTS OR OTHER METHODS TO REMOVE CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS FROM USE, INTERPRETATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION OF REGULATORY SIGNIFICANCE, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSES, ACADEMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND PRESS MATERIALS, AND, LASTLY, INFORMATION ON LEGISLATION OR REGULATORY ACTIONS PLANNED OR UNDERTAKEN AT THE NATIONAL OR REGIONAL LEVEL IN ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

7. A FOURTH IMPORTANT GOAL IS TO GIVE THE MAJOR CFC USERS AND PRODUCERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED CANADIAN AND US REGULATIONS RESTRICTING THE USE OF CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS AS AEROSOL PROPELLANTS. COMMENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE POINTING OUT POSSIBLE LEGAL OR REGULATORY INCOMPATIBILITIES BETWEEN THE PROPOSED CANADIAN AND US REGULATORY APPROACHES AND POSSIBLE FUTURE REGULATORY EFFORTS WHICH MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD ENABLE THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA TO SEE MORE CLEARLY THE ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION WHEN PREPARING THEIR FINAL REGULATIONS.

8. WE THINK THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING WILL LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THE FOLLOWING:

ITEM 1--OPENING

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF EPA, MR. DOUGLAS COSTLE, WILL CHAIR THE MEETING.

ITEM 2--ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

WE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS PRIOR TO THE MEETING ON THE AGENDA. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE AN INDICATION OF ANY INTENTION TO MAKE FORMAL PRESENTATIONS DURING THE MEETING.

ITEM 3--NATURE OF THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE DEPLETION PROBLEM

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THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE A FACTUAL PRESENTATION BASED ON EXISTING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE ON BOTH THE STRATOSPHERIC PHENOMENON AND THE EFFECT ON MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE FROM INCREASED ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION. OTHER COUNTRIES MAY MAKE FORMAL PRESENTATIONS OR COMMENT AS THEY DESIRE. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS DISCUSSION WILL PRODUCE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE AREAS ON WHICH THERE IS INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AS WELL AS BRING OUT THE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS. THIS PART OF THE PROGRAM IS EXPECTED TO TAKE AT LEAST A HALF DAY.

ITEM 4--SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE REGULATION

THE US EPA AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WILL PRESENT ANALYSES DONE ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF REGULATING FLUOROCARBONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND WILL DISCUSS THE METHODOLOGIES USED IN PREPARATION OF THESE ANALYSES. THE PRESENT ANALYSIS OF US INDUSTRY TRENDS INDICATES A MOVE TOWARD LOWER COST HYDROCARBON PROPELLANTS, TO WHICH A FLAME RETARDANT HAS BEEN ADDED, AS THE PRINCIPLE REPLACEMENT FOR CHLOROFLUOROCARBON AEROSOL PROPELLANTS, F-11, F-12, F-114, AND F-115. THE UNITED STATES PRESENTATION WILL STRESS THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUBSTITUTION. PRESENTATIONS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH MAY HAVE MADE SIMILAR STUDIES. THIS DISCUSSION, TOO, SHOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF DAY.

ITEM 5--STATUS OF NATIONAL PLANS TO CONTROL NONESSENTIAL USES OF FLUOROCARBONS

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE INVITED TO DESCRIBE
ANY PLANS THEY MAY HAVE FOR THE CONTROL, EITHER VOLUNTARY

OR REGULATORY, OF CFC EMISSIONS. CANADIAN AND US REPRESENTATIVES WOULD WELCOME A DISCUSSION OF THEIR PROPOSED
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REGULATIONS AND INVITE FURTHER DETAILED WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATTENDING NATIONS REGARDING ANY POTENTIAL LEGAL OR REGULATORY INCOMPATIBILITIES BETWEEN THE PROPOSED CANADIAN-US ACTIONS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE REGULATORY EFFORTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. (THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO PUBLISH ITS PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON AEROSOL USE OF CFC INTAKE APRIL AND WILL SHORTLY TRANSMIT MORE DETAILS ABOUT THESE REGULATIONS TO THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.)

ITEM 6--FUTURE ACTION

WHAT TRANSPIRES IN THE DISCUSSION UNDER THIS ITEM WILL BE DEPENDENT TO A LARGE DEGREE ON THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL HAVE PRECEDED IT. BUT WE WOULD HOPE THAT HERE WE CAN AGREE ON THE METHODOLOGY FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON SCIENTIFIC AND REGULATORY ISSUES. THE UNITED STATES WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT THE WASHINGTON MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN OF SUFFICIENT VALUE TO THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENT TO HOLD A FOLLOWUP MEETING, TO EXAMINE THE REGULATORY SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME.

9. IF THE PARTICIPANTS AGREE, A PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE TO THE PRESS AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING COVERING THE MAJOR POINTS DISCUSSED.

10. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WILL CONSIST ONLY OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ARE REQUESTED TO KEEP THEIR DELEGATIONS LIMITED TO OFFICIALS AS WELL.

11. I HOPE THIS INFORMATION WILL SUFFICE TO GIVE YOU A GENERAL PICTURE OF THE MEETING AS WE CONCEIVE IT AND AN IDEA OF HOW YOUR GOVERNMENT COULD CONTRIBUTE. WE FEEL THAT EARLY DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE MAJOR CFC PRODUCERS AND USERS
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WILL LEAD TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM AND THE

EVOLUTION OF EFFECTIVE SCIENTIFIC AND REGULATORY MEANS TO
COPE WITH IT.

WITH BEST PERSONAL REGARDS. SINCERELY YOURS, KIRKE
HARPER, ACTING ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITIES, US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY".

12. IN LIGHT OF STATE 62285, WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY DISCRE-
TION HOW TO ORCHESTRATE TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION
CONTAINED IN THESE TWO MESSAGES. LETTER TO SEDUNOV BEING
SENT AT HIS REQUEST, BUT IT MAY ALSO BE ADVISABLE TO PASS
TEXT CONTAINED STATE 62285 TO IZRAEL AND/OR OTHER
OFFICIAL IN ADDITION. FYI: SEDUNOV ATTENDED RECENT
UNEP MEETING ON THE OZONE LAYER (STATE 56935) AS A CLEARLY
INTERESTED PARTICIPANT, AND APPEARS A GOOD CONTACT FOR
THE APRIL "REGULATORY" MEETING. HE WAS, IN ADDITION,
ONE OF THOSE WHO PRESSED US OFFICIALS FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE GOALS AND CONTENT OF THE APRIL MEETING.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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